

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MANILA 18879 060701Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3557

S E C R E T MANILA 18879

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, RP

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE BASE NEGOTIATIONS

REFS: (A) STATE 293490, (B) MANILA 18763, (C) STATE 296271

1. WEEKEND FLAP OVER PRESS TORIES ON US-PHIL MILITARY BASES "AGREEMENT" HAS DEGENERATED INTO RECRIMINATIONS WHICH ARE BOUND TO LEAVE THE ISSUE IN A STATE OF CONSIDERABLE DISARRAY AS THE CALENDAR YEAR CLOSES. GWERTZMAN ARTICLE REPORTED REF C IS OBVIOUSLY DIRECTLY IN CONTRAST WITH GEORGE GEDDA INTERVIEW WITH ROMULO, CARRIED ON TODAY'S AP WIRE. FIRST (AND PROBABLY MOST MODERATE) SEMI-OFFICIAL GOP COMMENTARY IS CARRIED IN DECEMBER 6 EDITORIAL IN MANILA DAILY EXPRESS REPORTED SEPTTEL.

2. WE INTEND TO STAY ENTIRELY CLEAR OF CONTROVERSY AND TO REFER ALL PRESS QUERIES TO WASHINGTON. HOWEVER, AT SOME POINT, I MAY BE ASKED FOR EXPLANATION FROM PRESIDENT MARCOS.

3. ROMULO, WHO IS ATTEMPTING TO SAVE HIS OWN SKIN, HAS GIVEN HIS PUBLIC VERSION TO GEORGE GEDDA. KNOWING THE WAY HE OPERATES WITH MARCOS, MY GUESS IS THAT HE HAS NEVER REPORTED ANY AGREEMENT WITH SECRETARY IN MEXICO CITY, BUT MERELY PUT FORTH THE SUBSTANCE OF THAT AGREEMENT AS U.S. PROPOSAL AND PROBABLY RECOMMENDED ITS ACCEPTANCE. THEREFORE, WHEN MARCOS REJECTED IT, HE PROBABLY WAS UNAWARE THAT HE WAS REPUDIATING ROMULO.

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4. IN HIS STATEMENT TO GEDDA, ROMULO SAYS THAT TEXT

OF PROPOSED ANNOUNCEMENT CONTAINED REF A WAS FIRST
PRESENTED TO HIM "AT THE AIRPORT" BY A STATE DEPT OFFICIAL
WHO WAS ATTEMPTING TO PRESSURE HIM INTO SIGNING IT. REF A
LEFT ME WITH IMPRESSION THAT TEXT OF PROPOSED
ANNOUNCEMENT HAD BEEN AGREED WITH ROMULO IN MEXICO CITY.

5. SINCE I EXPECT TO BE GIVEN THE ROMULO VERSION OF
EVENTS WHEN HE RETURNS TO MANILA NEXT WEEK, I WOULD
APPRECIATE BEING FORTIFIED AS BEST POSSIBLE BY DETAILED
RECORD OF WHAT ACTUALLY TRANSPIRED IN THIS FIASCO. SULLIVAN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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